

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A light-emitting semiconductor device which comprises an n-layer of n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor ( $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$ ; inclusive of  $x=0$ ) and an i-layer of insulating gallium nitride compound semiconductor ( $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$ ; inclusive of  $x=0$ ) doped with p-type impurities, wherein at least one of said n-layer and said i-layer is of double-layer structure, the respective layers of said double-layer structure having different concentrations.
2. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said n-layer is of double-layer structure including an n<sub>L</sub>-layer of low carrier concentration and an n<sub>H</sub>-layer of high carrier concentration, the former being adjacent to said i-layer.
3. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said i-layer is of double-layer structure including an i<sub>L</sub>-layer of low impurity concentration containing p-type impurities in comparatively low concentration and an i<sub>H</sub>-layer of high impurity concentration containing p-type impurities in comparatively high concentration, the former being

adjacent to said n-layer.

4. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said n-layer is of double-layer structure including an n-layer of low carrier concentration and an n<sup>+</sup>-layer of high carrier concentration, the former being adjacent to said i-layer, and said i-layer is of double-layer structure including an i<sub>L</sub>-layer of low impurity concentration containing p-type impurities in comparatively low concentration and an i<sub>H</sub>-layer of high impurity concentration containing p-type impurities in comparatively high concentration, the former being adjacent to said n-layer,

5. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the thickness of said n-layer is 2.5 - 12  $\mu\text{m}$ .

6. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the carrier concentration of said n-layer is  $1 \times 10^{14} - 1 \times 10^{19} / \text{cm}^3$ .

7. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the thickness of said n-

layer of low carrier concentration is  $0.5 - 2 \mu\text{m}$  and the thickness of said  $n^+$ -layer of high carrier concentration is  $2 - 10 \mu\text{m}$ .

8. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the carrier concentration of said  $n$ -layer of low carrier concentration is  $1 \times 10^{14} - 1 \times 10^{17} / \text{cm}^3$  and the carrier concentration of said  $n^+$ -layer of high carrier concentration is  $1 \times 10^{17} - 1 \times 10^{19} / \text{cm}^3$ .

9. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the thickness of said  $i$ -layer is  $0.03 - 1.3 \mu\text{m}$ .

10. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the impurity concentration of said  $i$ -layer is  $1 \times 10^{16} - 5 \times 10^{20} / \text{cm}^3$ .

11. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the thickness of said  $i_L$ -layer of low impurity concentration is  $0.01 - 1 \mu\text{m}$  and the thickness of said  $i_H$ -layer of high impurity concentration is  $0.02 - 0.3 \mu\text{m}$ .

12. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the impurity concentration of said  $i_L$ -layer of low impurity concentration is  $1 \times 10^{16} - 5 \times 10^{19} /cm^3$  and the impurity concentration of said  $i_H$ -layer of high impurity concentration is  $1 \times 10^{19} - 5 \times 10^{20} /cm^3$ .

13. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said  $n^+$ -layer of high carrier concentration is doped with silicon.

14. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said  $n^+$ -layer of high carrier concentration is doped with silicon.

15. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein both said  $i_L$ -layer of low impurity concentration and said  $i_H$ -layer of high impurity concentration are doped with zinc, the amount of doped zinc in said  $i_H$ -layer of high impurity concentration being higher than that in said  $i_L$ -layer of low impurity concentration.

16. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 4, wherein both said  $i_L$ -layer of low impurity concentration and said  $i_H$ -layer of high

impurity concentration are doped with zinc, the amount of doped zinc in said  $i_H$ -layer of high impurity concentration being higher than that in said  $i_L$ -layer of low impurity concentration.

17. A method for producing a light-emitting semiconductor device comprising an n-layer of n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor ( $Al_xGa_{1-x}N$ ; inclusive of  $x=0$ ) and an i-layer of insulating gallium nitride compound semiconductor ( $Al_xGa_{1-x}N$ ; inclusive of  $x=0$ ) doped with p-type impurities from organometal compound by vapor phase epitaxy, comprising the steps of:

feeding a silicon-containing gas and other raw material gases together at a controlled mixing ratio to a substrate; and

growing said n-layer having a controlled conductivity.

18. A method as claimed in Claim 17, comprising:

growing an  $n^+$ -layer of high carrier concentration, which is an n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor ( $Al_xGa_{1-x}N$ ; inclusive of  $x=0$ ) having a comparatively high conductivity, on said substrate

having a buffer layer of aluminum nitride formed thereon, by feeding said silicon-containing gas and said other raw material gases together at a controlled mixing ratio; and

growing an n-layer of low carrier concentration, which is an n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor ( $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$ ; inclusive of  $x=0$ ) having a comparatively low conductivity, on said n<sup>+</sup>-layer, by feeding said raw material gases excluding said silicon-containing gas.

*Add a<sup>3</sup> >*